In the Specification:

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DLC coating 49 preferably has a thickness in the range from 1 to 10 micrometers, preferably 2 to 5 micrometers and, even more specifically, 2 to 3 micrometers. The hardness is in the range from 2,000 from 5,000 Knoop, thus not as hard as diamond. Once the coatings are formed on thrust washer 39 and ~~thrust washer~~ bearing sleeve 41, these members are installed in cone cavity 35. Cutter or cone 31 is installed on bearing pin 15 in a conventional manner.

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In the embodiment of Figure 5, bearing pin 51 does not have a thrust shoulder inlay 21 or journal bearing inlay 27 as in Figure 1. Instead, a DLC coating 53 is directly applied to the journal bearing of bearing pin 51. A DLC coating 55 is directly applied to the thrust shoulder of bearing pin 51. DLC coatings 53, 55 are applied in the same manner as described above and replace inlays 21 and 27. Thrust washer 39 (Figure 1) preferably has a DLC coating as previously described and slidingly engages thrust shoulder DLC coating 55. The DLC coatings ~~41~~ 49 and 55 are thus in sliding engagement with each other. Alternately, the DLC coatings could be in the cavity of the cone and on bearing pin 51, and thrust washer 39 could be conventional without DLC coatings.